



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20436

May 24, 2005

TO: Interested Parties -- Commercial Availability Reviews

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Program Managers for Commercial Availability Reviews

SUBJECT: Commercial Availability Review on Apparel of Woven Bamboo/Cotton
Fabric (Investigation No. 332-465-007)

The U.S. International Trade Commission has initiated a review to provide advice concerning a petition filed under the “commercial availability” provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) on woven fabric consisting of a fiber content of 59-percent bamboo and 41-percent cotton. The bamboo fiber is manufactured using a process similar to that of the viscose process. In the case of the bamboo fiber, the bamboo is processed into a pulp that is chemically treated and then mechanically extruded into a filament which is then cut into staple fibers. According to the petition, the subject fabric is classified as a woven fabric of artificial staple fibers in HTS statistical reporting number 5516.42.0022 and is used in the production of apparel.

The petition was filed by Columbia Sportswear Company and received by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) on May 18, 2005. The petition alleges that the fabric cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

The Commission will conduct the review and provide advice under its investigation No. 332-465, *Commercial Availability of Apparel Inputs (2005): Effect of Providing Preferential Treatment to Apparel Imported from Sub-Saharan African, Caribbean Basin, and Andean Countries*, instituted at the request of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). The advice concerns the probable economic effect on U.S. producers, workers, and consumers of granting duty-free and quota-free treatment to apparel made in eligible countries from the specified fabric, regardless of the source of the fabric, should CITA determine that the fabric cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The Commission will submit its advice to USTR in a classified report by June 29, 2005, and issue a public version of it soon thereafter.

The Commission invites interested parties to submit written statements (original and 3

copies) concerning issues to be addressed by the Commission in this review by June 14, 2005. Information on procedures for submitting written statements to the Commission can be found in its notice of investigation, which was published in the *Federal Register* of January 26, 2005 (70 F.R. 3728) and posted on its website at http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/fed_reg_notices/332/332_465_institution01242005sgl.pdf.

Further information on this review can be obtained from Robert W. Wallace (202-205-3458); robert.wallace@usitc.gov. Information on the commercial availability investigation of the Commission can be obtained from its Program Managers (see above) and from its website at http://www.usitc.gov/ind_econ_ana/research_ana/pres_cong/332/short_supply/shortsupplyintro.htm. Information on commercial availability requests is also available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, which chairs CITA, on the website of its Office of Textiles and Apparel at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/CA.htm>.